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Dark Matters

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PROGRAM NOTES

“Grace appears most purely in that human form which either has no consciousness or an infinite consciousness. That is, in the puppet or in the god.”

—Heinrich von Kleist, “On the Marionette Theater”

“Doubt requires more courage than conviction does, and more energy; because conviction is a resting place and doubt is infinite; it is a passionate exercise. We’ve got to learn to live with a full measure of uncertainty. There is no last word. That’s the silence under the chatter of our time.”

—John Patrick Shanley

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Under the direction of internationally renowned Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite, Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM has been resident company at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt since spring 2010. The residency is made possible by Kulturfonds Frankfurt Rhein-Main.

Integrating movement, original music, text, and rich visual design, Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM’s performance work is assembled with recklessness and rigor, balancing sharp exactitude with irreverence and risk. Kidd Pivot’s distinct choreographic language—a breadth of movement fusing classical elements and the complexity and freedom of structured improvisation—is marked by a strong theatrical sensibility and a keen sense of wit and invention.

Crystal Pite has collaborated with celebrated dance artists, theater companies, and filmmakers in Canada, Europe, and the United States. Since 2001, she has created and performed under the banner of her own company. Her work and her company have been recognized with numerous awards and commissions. Kidd Pivot tours extensively around the world with productions that include *Dark Matters* (2009), *Fault* (2008), *Lost Action* (2006), *Uncollected Work* (2002), and *Double Story* (2004), created with Richard Siegal. Kidd Pivot is the recipient of the 2006 Rio Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Crystal Pite (Choreographer) has created works for Nederlands Dans Theater I, Cullberg Ballet, Ballett Frankfurt, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (Resident Choreographer 2001–04), Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, and The National Ballet of Canada, among others. Pite is a former company member of Ballet British Columbia and Ballett Frankfurt. In 2001, she formed Kidd Pivot and continues to create and perform internationally in her own work. Pite is an associate dance artist of Canada’s National Arts Centre and associate choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater. She is the recipient of Canada’s 2008 Governor General’s Mentorship Award.

Eric Beauchesne (Performer), born in Bécancour, Québec, first encountered dance at the age of 16 in a student musical. Since graduating from l’École Supérieure de Danse du Québec in 1994, he has danced with the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, the Stadttheater Mönchengladbach, and Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. In 2004, he became an independent artist and has had, since then, the privilege of performing with Canadian contemporary dance icons such as Paul-André Fortier, Crystal Pite, and Louise Lecavalier. Beauchesne has also recently collaborated as repetiteur and teacher for Kidd Pivot, Cullberg Ballet, and Ballet British Columbia for the remounting of Crystal Pite’s past work.

Peter Chu (Performer) is from Florida and trained as a gymnast and cheerleader. On graduation from The Juilliard School, he was awarded the Hector Zaraspe Prize for Choreography. He has danced with such companies as Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal and EZdanza. Chu was a part of Céline Dion’s *A New Day* in Las Vegas and Christina Perri’s “Jar of Hearts” music video. Now pursuing a career as choreographer and performer, Chu formed chuthis., a project-based company. His choreography is featured on the ARTV series *Meneuse de claques*. He has created work for Naomi Stikeman’s *Çaturn* and Sarah Williams’s solo show, *Ici est toujours ailleurs*. Chu is the 2010 recipient of the Capezio ACE Award for Choreography.

Sandra Marín Garcia (Performer) was born in Barcelona, where she studied dance at the Institute of Theatre, Dance, and Choreography. She worked for the Concert

Dansa Dark in Barcelona, Polish Dance Theatre, Theater Vorpommern Greifswald und Stralsund, Stadttheater Dortmund, Scapino Ballet, Cullberg Ballet, and Nederlands Dans Theater. Marín Garcia has worked with choreographers such as Johan Inger, Paul Lightfoot, Sol León, Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián, and Crystal Pite, among others. She has taught workshops organized by the educational department at the Nederlands Dans Theater I. In summer 2010 she taught at the Maximum Dance Course in The Hague. She joined Kidd Pivot in August 2010.

Yannick Matthon (Performer), a versatile interpreter, pedagogue, and choreographer, has made dance a focal point for 25 years. Now having passed the 1,000th production milestone, Matthon has had an atypically diverse career considering his classical training: he studied French technique with Daniel Sellier and the Vaganova syllabus with Max Ratevosian, himself a pupil of Pushkin. Contemporaries who have helped forge his character through work and friendship include Aszure Barton, Benoît Lachambre, Crystal Pite, Dominique Porte, Lee Su-Feh, Myriam Naisy, Robert Battle, Rudi Van Dantzig, Serge Denoncourt, and Yannik Larivé. When not touring with Kidd Pivot, Matthon divides his time between Canada and Germany.

Cindy Salgado (Performer), originally from California, now lives in New York. She joined Kidd Pivot in 2009 for the creation of *Dark Matters*. She is a member of Aszure Barton & Artists and has performed on projects such as *Busk* with Barton as well as Mikhail Baryshnikov’s Hell’s Kitchen Dance Tour. She performed for the Elton John and Friends Benefit Concert on Broadway in a piece by Andy Blankenbuehler. As a 2005 Juilliard School graduate, Salgado was honored to receive the Princess Grace Award. She has taught and choreographed throughout the US. She is a cofounder of Artists Striving To End Poverty, an organization providing arts programming to underserved children.

Jermaine Maurice Spivey (Performer) was born in Baltimore, where he began his dance training and later attended performing arts high school at the Baltimore School for the Arts. After graduating with a BFA in dance from The Juilliard School in 2002, he moved to Lisbon, Portugal, where he danced with Ballet Gulbenkian from 2002 to 2005. In 2005, Spivey joined the Cullberg Ballet, where he met Crystal Pite, and performed with the company until the summer of 2008. Spivey has received several awards in dance, including the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts 1st Level

Scholarship and the Princess Grace Award. Spivey has been performing with Kidd Pivot since August 2008.

Owen Belton (Composer) graduated from Simon Fraser University in 1993 with a degree in Fine and Performing Arts and studied music composition with Barry Truax and Owen Underhill. In his work, he uses acoustic and electronic instruments, often in combination with computer processing techniques such as granular synthesis. Over the last 10 years he has written music for many dance companies, including Kidd Pivot, The National Ballet of Canada, the Cullberg Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal, the Stuttgart Ballet, and the Royal Ballet of London. In addition to collaborating with Crystal Pite on over a dozen works, he has also scored music for choreographers such as Matjash Mrozewski, Donald Sales, and Chick Snipper. Belton also creates scores and sound design for theater and film.

Robert Sondergaard (Lighting Design) is a Vancouver-based lighting designer with a diverse portfolio spanning over 15 years. He has designed sporting events (2010 Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games, 2007 Canada Winter Games), for film (*Catwoman*, *Deck the Halls*), television (*21st Annual Gemini Awards*, *Anne Murray: Friends and Legends*), theme parks (Legoland California, Dollywood), dance (Kidd Pivot, Ballet British Columbia), ceremonies (United Nations World Urban Forum), and music (Barrage: Vagabond Tales World Tour, Rankin Family Canadian Tour). Sondergaard is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada. He lives in Port Moody with his wife, Philomena, and their girls, Riley and Bree.

Jay Gower Taylor (Set Design) began as a professional dancer, enjoying an international career that spanned more than 20 years. Parallel to his dance career, Taylor developed his skills as a designer and builder. Some of his first opportunities designing for theater were with Dancemakers, collaborating with Serge Bennathan on *Absences*, *The Invisible Life of Joseph Finch*, and the film *Quand les grandmères s’envolent* for CBC’s *Opening Night*. More recently, Taylor designed Bennathan’s *MANGA* and the play version of *Finch*, Crystal Pite’s *Frontier* for Nederlands Dans Theater, *Emergence* for The National Ballet of Canada, *Fault* for Kidd Pivot, and Electric Company Theatre’s interpretation of Jean-Paul Sartre’s *No Exit*.

Linda Chow (Costume Design) has designed work for Kidd Pivot including *Uncollected Work*, *Lost Action*, *Fault*, *Decembering*, and *A Picture of You Falling*. She

has also collaborated with Crystal Pite on *Arietta* for Ballet British Columbia and *Emergence* for The National Ballet of Canada.

Jeremy Collie-Holmes (Technical Director), originally from Wellington, New Zealand, graduated from Victoria University in Wellington with a BA in Theatre and Film and a BCA in Management. Since then he has combined his love of travel with his career. Collie-Holmes has worked as a production manager, technical director, and in various other technical roles for festivals, venues, and companies in New Zealand, Australia, the UK, and Europe. He is excited to now be part of the Kidd Pivot team, basing himself in Canada while still touring the globe. He is happy to call Vancouver home but returns to New Zealand whenever possible.

Julie-anne Saroyan (Stage Manager) graduated with a BFA in Dance from York University in 1993 and then attended the Banff Centre as an intern in dance stage management. Saroyan has had the pleasure of working with many artists and companies including Ballet British Columbia, Lola Dance, Margie Gillis, Emily Molnar, Alison Brown, and Richard Siegal. She is also artistic producer of MovEnt, where she has produced over 22 installments of Dances for

a Small Stage (a dance cabaret series) in Vancouver and Ottawa. Saroyan has been working with Crystal Pite for over 10 years and tours nationally and internationally with Kidd Pivot.

Derek Mack (Stage Carpenter/Rigger) has been a technical director and production manager in Vancouver for the last 10 years. He had the great pleasure of being the technical director for the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Mack is currently the director of production for Ballet British Columbia.

Brent Belsher (Company Manager) is a consultant specializing in working with arts organizations. His introduction to the arts was 10 years ago, through his work with Ballet British Columbia as manager of artistic operations. In the past three years he has worked as a consultant and, in addition to working with Ballet British Columbia, he has worked with The National Ballet of Canada, Judith Marcuse Projects, Rubberbandance Group, Margie Gillis, the Borealis String Quartet, and others. He also works as a meeting planner. Prior to his involvement in the arts, he worked for a tour company, leading adventure tours around the world. This is Belsher’s fourth tour with Kidd Pivot.

COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM acknowledges the support of Künstlerhaus Mousonturm (Frankfurt) as coproducer and Gemeinnütziger Kulturfonds Frankfurt Rhein-Main as a sponsor and partner.

Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, and The Hamber Foundation.

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Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM is a member of the Canadian Dance Assembly and The Dance Centre.

For more about Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM, visit www.kiddpivot.org.



Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
 Dr. Geoffrey W. Newman, Dean, College of the Arts
 Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Peak Performances @ Montclair presents:

Regional Premiere!

Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM

Dark Matters

Created by **Crystal Pite**

Company Members **Eric Beauchesne, Peter Chu, Sandra Marín Garcia, Yannick Matthon, Cindy Salgado, Jermaine Maurice Spivey**

Composer (Original Music) **Owen Belton**
 Lighting Design **Robert Sondergaard**
 Set Design **Jay Gower Taylor**
 Costume Design **Linda Chow**
 Voice **Christopher Gaze**
 Text **Voltaire**, excerpts from “Poem on the Lisbon Disaster”
 Additional Music **Eric Whitacre** “Sleep,” performed by **Polyphony and Stephen Layton** (courtesy of Hyperion Records, London)
 Puppets **Robert Lewis, Valerie Moffat**
 Scenic Painters **Angela Carlson, Louise DeGagné, Jay Gower Taylor**
 Technical Director **Jeremy Collie-Holmes**
 Stage Manager **Julie-anne Saroyan**
 Stage Carpenter/Rigger **Derek Mack**

Producer **Jim Smith**
 Production Manager **Jason Dubois**
 General Manager **Bernard Sauvé**
 Marketing and Communications Manager **Bonnie Sun**
 Administrative Assistant **Sharon Simpson**
 Company Manager **Brent Belsher**
 International Agent **Menno Plukker Theatre Agent Inc.**

World Premiere: April 24, 2009, National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Canada.

Dark Matters is a coproduction of Dance Victoria, the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and L'Agora de la danse (Montreal), and is made possible through the support of Arts Partners in Creative Development.

Supported in part by the Jim Henson Foundation.

Duration: 2 hours, including one 20-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

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Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM

Dark Matters

October 21–24, 2010

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